

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 07844 131818Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02 SY-05
USSS-00 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 /098 W
-----104760 141329Z /40

R 131540Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5866
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 07844

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGDV GE
SUBJECT: MORE ON THE OCT. 7 DISTURBANCES

REF: BERLIN 7777

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER REPERCUSSIONS AS A RESULT
OF THE DISTURBANCES IN EAST BERLIN ON THE NIGHT OF OCT.
7-8 REPORTED REFTEL.

2. ON MONDAY, OCT 10 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CARRIED A BRIEF
ADN ITEM ON THE BACK PAGE ON THE INCIDENT. IT APPEARED
IN ONE, BUT NOT BOTH, MORNING EDITIONS, SUGGESTING
THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME PROBLEM WITH OBTAINING POLITICAL
CLEARANCE ON HOW TO HANDLE THE STORY LOCALLY. ACCORDING
TO THIS "OFFICIAL" VERSION, IN THE EVENING HOURS OF
FRIDAY SOME "ROWDIES" ATTEMPTED, IN AN IRRESPONSIBLE
MANNER, TO HINDER THE VOLKSPOLIZEI FROM RESCUING SOME
INJURED PEOPLE. SOME YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAD CLIMBED THE
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WALL OF AN AIRSHAFT AT THE FOOT OF THE TELEVISION TOWER,
HAD FALLEN AND WERE INJURED. THE "ROWDIES" ATTEMPTED TO
INTERRUPT THE POLICE EFFORTS TO REMOVE THE INJURED
PERSONS, THEY KICKED UP A ROW AND BECAME VIOLENT. THE
BEHAVIOR OF THE ROWDIES PROVOKED INDIGNATION AMONG THE
PEOPLE, WHO SUPPORTED THE VOLKSPOLIZEI IN SECURING OF
PEACE AND ORDER. A NUMBER OF ROWDIES WHO DID NOT OBEY

THE REQUEST OF THE VOLKSPOLIZEI AND CONTINUED THEIR ACTIVITIES, WERE TAKEN TO PRISON.

3. DESPITE VERY LOW KEY IN WHICH STORY WAS PLAYED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, EAST BERLIN POPULACE IS WELL AWARE OF EVENT DUE TO EXTENSIVE COVERAGE BY WEST GERMAN TV AND THERE IS WIDESPREAD SPECULATION HERE ABOUT THE DETAILS. THERE ARE MANY RUMORS, NONE VERIFIED, THAT THE DISBURBANCES WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SERIOUS VIOLENCE. IT IS SAID THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE KILLED - THE FIGURE USED RUNS FROM THREE TO NINE - AND THAT MANY MORE WERE SEVERELY INJURED.

4. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF WERE IN OR NEAR ALEXANDER PLATZ DURING THE APPROXIMATE TIME OF THE INCIDENT BUT OBSERVED NO DISTURBANCES. THE AREA WAS FILLED WITH LATE EVENING STROLLERS AND THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE OUTDOOR FESTIVAL, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE INCIDENT MUST HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED TO A SMALL AREA. EYE WITNESS OBSERVERS OF THE INCIDENT WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED AGREE THAT VIOLENCE DID BREAK OUT AND THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF POLICE WERE BROUGHT IN. THEY ALSO AGREE THAT THE PEOPLE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WERE LIMITED TO A HANDFUL, WERE APPARENTLY DRUNK AND THAT THE ENTIRE INCIDENT APPEARED TO BE UNORGANIZED AND SPONTANEOUS. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN07844
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770377-0368
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771067/aaaacegt.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4a5bf830-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 7777
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 940483
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE ON THE OCT. 7 DISTURBANCES
TAGS: PGOV, GC, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4a5bf830-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009